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KUMER, whose parents were both well known in the Russian Empire, attended the Moscow State University and also had a degree from the Russian Revolution College. He was graduated in 1927, and during the period of the Russian Revolution he worked in the Ministry of Education. He was in the U.S.S.R. from 1927 to 1930, but he came to Copenhagen in the summer of that year and remained there for about a year. At that time his only contact with the Party was about to expire, and he began to study Slavic literature. It was then that he had heard about the Institute for the Study of the Slavic Languages in Copenhagen. During 1930-31 KUMER lived with an uncle in Copenhagen, where he studied the Russian language and culture. Following the Russian quite well and after taking his exam in Slavic literature at the Institute, he would like to continue his studies or go back to the United States to teach the language. His U.S. visa expires in April 1931, and after that money will be a problem. He stated that he likes Russian literature, but not the Soviet writers because they are compelled to write to conform to the Party line of social realism.

The above biographic information on KUMER was obtained from an initial lead from conversation with M/I. Before we checked the Section files, KUMER looked like a good prospect. He still should not be ruled out. Not knowing about the material in the files, we told M/I at our meeting on the 23rd to go ahead and cultivate KUMER. We gave him a good briefing on that information he should elicit and how he should pursue this target. M/I has arranged a dinner this evening, 29 November, with KUMER and should be able to provide a rough initial assessment of him at our next meeting. M/I's initial assessment, which is why he was prone to pursue this lead, is that KUMER was a basically intelligent person, but not educated up to his potential. He is inclined to be shy, nervous, and a bit lonely. He is not too refined in his mannerisms. M/I said that KUMER had some American friends in Copenhagen, but they were not "regular students." M/I then explained to us the type of environment from which KUMER came (and with which he is familiar) and said that it was his opinion that this could very well account for the impression of himself which KUMER gave to others.

5. After our next meeting with M/I in which we should get a rough clearer picture of KUMER, we should be able to tell whether this lead is still worth, and if it looks promising complete traces will be requested from the Section. After the evening's contact with KUMER, M/I has been instructed to keep M/I in the contact but not to pursue it aggressively, until he has further information. Regardless of how this lead turns out, it will be valuable practice and experience for M/I, which is, we believe, worth while.

Richard H. Bellman

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